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OFFICE OF PETITIONS PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

)
) Group Art Unit: 3625
) Examiner: Mark A. Fadok
) Atty. Dkt.: 114944-00209
) Date: August 15, 2003

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Office Action dated December 2, 2002 has been carefully considered. In response thereto, the Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and submits that the present claimed invention would not have been obvious over the combination of references proposed in the Office Action for two reasons. First, it would not have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to combine the references as proposed in the Office Action. Second, such a combination, even if made, would not have resulted in the subject matter of the present claimed invention.

The present claimed invention offers the advantages noted at the bottom of page 10 of the originally filed specification. For example, the mere use of AVI does not speed up cooking time. Instead, the present claimed invention allows advance ordering and thus offers the advantages of